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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 15th day of December 2020,

We extend congratulations to **Susan Spaulding**, who plans to retire at the end of the year after an outstanding 35-year career working with the AP's radio and television business.

Got a favorite story to share about working with Susan? Send it along.

Our congratulations also extend to two Connecting colleagues – **David Wilkison** and **Eva Parziale** - who were promoted in the Americas Media division – which funds the journalism done by AP journalists around the world.

Our colleague **Guy Palmiotto** ([Email](#)) – in the spirit of the Christmas season – shares the above photo of the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree. He said he found it through his ongoing project of “culling through my many photos and digitizing the most important images. Working in Rockefeller Center for 23 Years, I do have a collection of tree images.”

I found it of interest that in the NPR story below on an opinion piece in The Wall Street Journal suggesting that incoming first lady Jill Biden drop the "Dr." title she uses because her doctorate is not in the field of medicine. The story concludes by stating NPR follows the AP Stylebook style on the use of doctor. That style:

Use *Dr.* in first reference as a formal title before the name of an individual who holds a doctor of dental surgery, doctor of medicine, doctor of optometry, doctor of osteopathic medicine, doctor of podiatric medicine, or doctor of veterinary medicine: *Dr. Jonas Salk*.

The form *Dr.*, or *Drs.* in a plural construction, applies to all first-reference uses before a name, including direct quotations. Do not continue the use of *Dr.* in subsequent references.

Do not use *Dr.* before the names of individuals who hold other types of doctoral degrees. Instead, when necessary or appropriate for a specific audience: *Cassandra Karoub, who has a doctorate in mathematics, was lead researcher*. In a list: *Stephanie D’Ercole, Ph.D.*

What's your opinion on the matter - and why? The policy has been in place for many years, for as long as I can recall, but with Jill Biden so much more prominent in the news, is it time to reconsider?

Here's to a great day ahead – be safe, stay healthy and share some of your favorite stories relating to the holiday season.

Paul

Susan Spaulding to retire after 35-year AP career in radio, television

Michael Fabiano (Email) – *VP and General Manager, Americas Media* - After a 35-year career with The Associated Press managing the cooperative's radio and television business, Groups Director Susan Spaulding will retire at the end of the year.

I have always been impressed by Susan's ability to establish and maintain deep relationships with customers, vast radio industry knowledge, and detailed analytical analysis for larger deals.

For the past four years, Susan has been a critical member of the Americas Media Groups team, managing the AP's business and editorial relationships with its largest radio groups and networks, including National Public Radio, Entercom Communications, Cumulus Media, Saga Communications, iHeartMedia and many others. Additionally, she has managed the business relationship with Scripps' television group the past three years.



Just this year alone, she closed deals on critical renewals with NPR, Scripps, Entercom and Saga, among others.

Susan, who is based in Washington, joined the AP in 1985 just a few years after graduating with a communications degree from High Point University. Based in San Francisco, Susan was responsible for the AP's relationships with radio and television stations in Northern California and Oregon.

In 1987, she transferred to Chicago to take on the AP's broadcast business in Illinois and Indiana, culminating in being named 1991 AP Broadcast Executive of the Year. With AP's separation of radio and television sales, Susan added Wisconsin to her portfolio that year, working with nearly 700 radio stations across the three states and coordinating all business with radio groups headquartered in the territory.

Susan moved to Washington in 1995 as manager of national radio sales, where she took on responsibility for sales and renewals of AP services to national and state radio networks and nationally syndicated radio shows, as well as business with radio stations and radio groups based in New York City.

Two years later, Susan led the reorganization of the entire radio sales team into three divisions – major markets, medium markets and direct sales, managing a team of four sales managers, 19 sales executives and four administrative assistants. Among her roles as director of sales for AP Radio, Susan worked on the development and implementation of new radio products and pricing.

In 1999, Susan was named radio group/internet sales director, overseeing the AP's relationships on a corporate level for the top radio groups in the United States and being responsible for sales and marketing of AP services to national and state radio networks and nationally syndicated radio shows.

In addition to the executive of the year award, Susan was part of the team that won the Chairman's Prize in 2006 for its work on the Online Video Network that provided video services to all AP members.

Susan joined the newly formed Groups team in 2016, where she added more multi-million-dollar accounts to her portfolio while working closely with account directors who managed local relationships of group stations in the field.

Earlier this year, Susan celebrated her 35th anniversary with the AP. "Susan has been so critical to this team, maintaining important relationships with key radio and TV groups and successfully pushing to make renewals more lucrative even in these difficult financial times," said David Wilkison, managing director of Groups. "Her business skills, wisdom and leadership are going to be sorely missed not just by the team but the entire company."

Please join me in wishing Susan the best as she transitions to this new phase of her life. We wish her the best with her retirement.

Susan Spaulding's email – sspaulding@ap.org

Wilkison, Parziale promoted to new positions in AP's Americas Media

David Wilkison and Eva Parziale, key members of the AP's America's Media team, have been promoted to new positions in the department charged with building revenue for The Associated Press.

Wilkison will become the vice president for Local Media starting Jan. 1, 2021, and Parziale will succeed him as Managing Director of Key Accounts. Their appointments were announced by Michael Fabiano, Vice President and General Manager, Americas Media.

"David has successfully led the Americas Media Groups team the past four years, helping to shape this new unit," Fabiano said. "Working together, the Groups team has secured significant multimillion-dollar



renewals across major television, radio and newspaper accounts.”

Fabiano noted that having started as a newsman for the AP in Charleston, W.Va., in 1988, Wilkison “has the unique perspective having spent a little over half his 32 years with AP on the editorial side and the rest on the business side.

“Always taking on new challenges as the business has shifted over the years, David has demonstrated a continual openness and willingness to learn new positions and participate in change.”

Wilkison was named Managing Director of Media Groups in 2016 after serving seven years as the Director of Major Accounts. He guided formation of the Mid-Atlantic operation in 2006, combining the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan news desks to strengthen coverage throughout the region. Wilkison previously served as regional news director for 16 western and Midwestern states and the State Data Center in Spokane, Wash.

He joined the AP in 1988 in Charleston, W.Va., after graduating from West Virginia University with a degree in journalism. He served as correspondent in Morgantown, W.Va., and Newark, N.J.; news editor in Des Moines, Iowa, and Philadelphia; assistant bureau chief in Philadelphia; and bureau chief in Louisville, Ky.

Fabiano said Parziale “has successfully managed the AP’s Local Markets business in the East since 2012. Her portfolio of responsibility doubled in 2019 to \$60 million for broadcast, newspaper and digital revenue in the eastern half of the United States.

“Earlier this year, she led cross-platform negotiations with Cox and Salem and worked closely on a five-year renewal with Advance – nearly \$30 million in total revenue for those three groups.”

Parziale joined the AP in 1985 as a part-time photo librarian in New York while a graduate student at Columbia University before moving to Florida to become a reporter in the Miami bureau. Through the mid-1990s, Eva held various editorial positions, including correspondent, news editor, assistant bureau chief and bureau chief.

She served as director of the AP Photo Archive/Wide World Photos from 1997 to

1999 before being named bureau chief in Ohio, a position she held until 2012 when she was named a regional director to manage the AP's business in the East.

As managing director of key accounts, Parziale will be responsible for leading the team that oversees the AP's largest newspaper, television and radio groups – more than \$80 million in annual revenue.

David Wilkison's email – dwickison@ap.org

Eva Parziale's email – eparziale@ap.org



My wife and AP for me

Hal Bock (Email) - I had worked two summer relief stints in NY Sports with no permanent slots available after they were over in 1960 and 1962. I was working in university fund raising and miserable when Ted Smits called in October 1963 to offer me a permanent job.

I was torn because my wife and I had a new baby and I knew from my previous time at The AP that the job involved working nights and weekends and I wasn't sure that would be fair to my new family. But Fran knew it was what I had always wanted to do and how unhappy I was in the job I had. She encouraged me to go ahead and so we made a deal. By me working nights, it would free up days for her to return to school for graduate studies.

She earned a PhD in psychology, fulfilling her ambition and I worked for 40 years in NY Sports, fulfilling mine. We celebrated our 59th anniversary last month and that baby is now Associate General Counsel with the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, DC.

Chanukah – and ways to spell it without the Ch

Bruce Lowitt (Email) - Herewith, a list of some of the ways to spell Chanukah (excluding all the ways that begin with Ch):

Hanukkah
Hanukah
Hannukah

Hannukka
Hanuka
Hannuka
Hanukkah
Hannukkah

The reason (or problem), of course, is in the transliteration. Chanukah is a Hebrew word and the first letter in Hebrew is N which is pronounced like the Ch in "Loch" (as in Loch Ness Monster) and not as in "chew".

When I was a sports writer for the St. Petersburg Times after leaving The AP in 1986, the paper's Floridian (features) section asked for staff stories about memories of Christmas (and by the way, I'd like to point out that we do not pronounce the Ch in "Christmas" as we do the Ch in "Chew" or "Loch").

Anyway, I submitted a story about the only year my parents put up a tree - a two-foot-tall aluminum job on a coffee table when I was seven or eight years old. Why they did it was beyond me; it was years after I'd realized there was no Santa Claus.

And in the story I wrote about our putting up a Chanukah menorah as well as the tree. The desk changed it to Hanukkah menorah and showed me the edit. I told the desk to change it back to Chanukah. The desk said the paper's style was Hanukkah.

I, being rebellious as well as one of the so-called "Chosen People," told the desk that Hanukkah was the (expletive deleted) Hallmark Card spelling and if the desk didn't want to spell it the "correct" way the desk could pull the story.

The desk didn't have a substitute story and we were close to deadline, so we negotiated a somewhat satisfactory solution. I allowed the desk to spell it "Hanukkah" and the desk permitted me to add a sentence that said Jews spelled it "Chanukah" and that the Ch was the sound of a cat coughing up a hairball.

New-member profile – Gary Fields



Gary Fields ([Email](#)) - Global Religion news editor, Associated Press. Gary joined the global religion team in September 2019. He is a veteran journalist with more than three decades of experience ranging from sports reporting to investigative projects. He's a former board member for the Fund for Investigative Journalism. In 2000, he joined the Wall Street Journal's Washington bureau to cover the Justice Department where he was involved in coverage of 9/11 and its aftermath. He has extensive experience reporting on criminal justice, mental

health and tribal issues. Most recently, Gary was the senior manager of content for Lutheran World Relief/IMA World Health. Prior to joining the Journal Gary was a national reporter at USA TODAY where he focused primarily on criminal justice and critical incidents. He attended college in Louisiana and is married with three daughters and two granddaughters.

An AP sighting in ‘Bears in the Caviar’

Dick Lipsey ([Email](#)) - Here is another AP sighting that might be of interest.

“Bears in the Caviar” is a memoir by Charles Thayer about his experiences in the Soviet Union beginning in 1933 when the United States established diplomatic relations. Thayer was a recent West Point graduate who opted not to go on active duty – over the objections of his first regimental commander, Colonel George Patton.

Because of the Great Depression, the Army was willing to forgo the services of many newly commissioned lieutenants. Thayer went to Russia planning to learn the language and make contacts that would enable him – he hoped – to be on hand and available for employment when the US embassy was established in Moscow. His plan worked, Thayer was hired for the consular section of the embassy, and he became a fixture in the small American colony in Moscow.

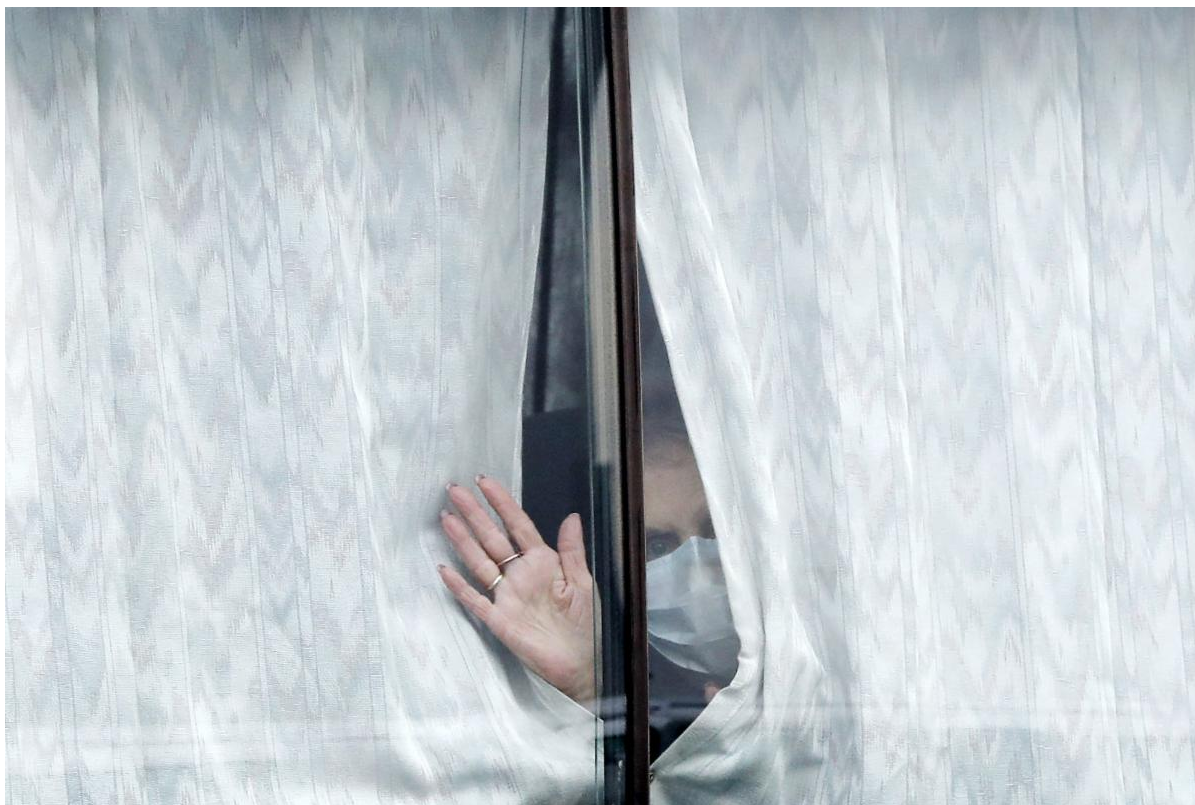
“Ralph Barnes of the Herald Tribune, Stanley Richardson of the A.P., Eugene Lyons of U.P., Bill Stoneman of the Chicago Daily News, and of course, Walter Duranty of the New York Times, were regular visitors at these Friday gatherings. ... I was to have many dealings with Stan Richardson fifteen years later when he was with the NBC.”

Thayer was a lively (and literate) writer, and his account of becoming Senior Polo Instructor to the Red Army is one of many fascinating stories. His memoir was published in 1950 and reissued in 2015.

Virus casts shadow over AP's pictures of the year in Asia



Indian Hindu pilgrims walk through a pontoon bridge before dawn at Sangam, the confluence of rivers Ganges, Yamuna, and mythical Saraswati during Magh Mela, a festival that attracts millions of pilgrims every year, in Prayagraj, in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh on Jan. 30, 2020. (AP Photo/Altaf Qadri)



A bus carrying passengers from the quarantined Diamond Princess cruise ship leaves a port as passengers tested negative for COVID-19 started disembarking, in Yokohama, near Tokyo, on Feb. 20, 2020. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

By FOSTER KLUG

TOKYO (AP) — The year of the virus.

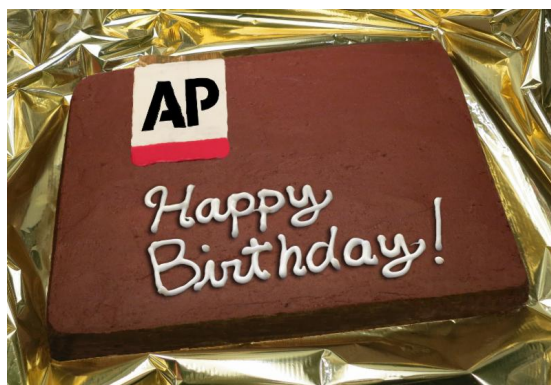
From sports to festivals, natural disasters to protests, hardly a moment of 2020 captured by the photojournalists of The Associated Press in Asia was free of the specter of the disease that rampaged first across the region, and then the world.

Take, for instance, a picture from mid-January, before the pandemic gained regional traction, of a Hindu pilgrim in the water near where the Ganges empties into the Bay of Bengal. There is a peaceful timelessness as the man stretches out a hand toward a glowing sun that hovers like a suspended orange ball just above the watery horizon; this could be from a century ago, a millennium, even. Looking back at it 11 months later, however, after the widespread misery and death that followed, it's hard to shake a lingering feeling of foreboding.

Many of these images capture not only what those experiencing an extraordinary moment must have felt; they also carry a sense of the universal, of a shared flash of understanding in an otherwise bewildering and brutal year, regardless of how specific or individual the circumstances of each picture might be.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Rob Dalton - robdalton@sbcglobal.net

John Strachan - strachanjohna@gmail.com

Stories of interest

LA Times executive editor Norman Pearlstine steps down (AP)

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles Times Executive Editor Norman Pearlstine has stepped down after 2 1/2 years heading a newspaper roiled by management shakeups, a drop in revenue and questions about its commitment to newsroom diversity.

Pearlstine, 78, announced in October that he planned to retire but would stay on to help in the search for a new top editor.

On Monday, the Times' owner and executive chairman Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong wrote in a note to staff that Pearlstine was no longer overseeing the newsroom and had shifted to an advisory role, the newspaper reported.

The paper recently hired a search firm to manage the process to find a new executive editor, which is expected to take several months, the Times said.

In the interim, two veteran managers will oversee the newsroom.

"Times Managing Editors Scott Kraft and Kimi Yoshino will now be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the newsroom, reporting to me," Soon-Shiong wrote in the note. "Sewell Chan, editor of the Editorial Pages, will also report to me."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Biden Team Response To Controversial Op-Ed 'Clearly A Political Strategy,' Editor Says (NPR)

By BRAKKTON BOOKER

The editor of The Wall Street Journal's editorial page has waded into the fracas surrounding the paper's controversial decision to run an opinion piece on incoming first lady Jill Biden that was widely criticized as sexist and demeaning.

Paul Gigot, who is responsible for the paper's opinion section, defended the decision to run an op-ed published Friday by Joseph Epstein, who suggested that she should drop the "Dr." title she uses because her doctorate is not in the field of medicine.

Epstein broadened his criticism to include anyone using the title who is not a physician, and universities more generally for "the erosion of seriousness and the relaxation of standards" when it comes to granting degrees.

Biden earned a doctorate in education, Ed.D., from the University of Delaware in 2007.

Read more [here](#).

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Beloved Journal Sentinel reporter Meg Jones, whose adventurous life took her -- and readers -- across the globe, dies at 58

**By Bill Glauber
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**

We've lost one of our own.

Meg Jones, who was the heart and soul of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's newsroom for more than two decades, died early Sunday.

She was 58 and just last month was diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer.

Unflappable on deadline and fearless in the field, she could write about anything, from a 16-month-old snow leopard getting used to her new digs at the Milwaukee County Zoo to Bucks fans watching their beloved basketball team playing in Paris.



Meg was all Wisconsin, from her green-and-gold Green Bay Packers earrings to her red-and-white University of Wisconsin sweatshirt.

Read more [here](#).

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The Desperate Last Days of Local News (New Republic)



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

By RACHEL M. COHEN

In 2018, in an act of defiance that would become known as the Denver Rebellion, a group of current and former Denver Post staffers wrote and designed a six-page Sunday spread of op-ed pieces aimed at the paper's owners, the New York-based hedge fund Alden Global Capital. The project, which led with the title, "As vultures circle, The Denver Post must be saved," detailed how Alden's ownership decimated the outlet.

As just one example, the Denver newsroom shrank from more than 250 employees to fewer than 100, even as management reported solid profits. Journalists no longer had enough manpower to report on all the hearings and local events that warranted coverage, even as subscription prices continued to rise.

The role of hedge funds and private equity is familiar fare for anyone following the economics of the news industry over the past decade. The extraordinary protest in Colorado led to front-page coverage in The New York Times and editorials from leading media writers, such as The Washington Post's Margaret Sullivan—she called Alden "one of the most ruthless of the corporate strip-miners," whose subsidiary Digital First is "wreaking similar havoc all over the country." An American Prospect feature story, "Saving the Free Press From Private Equity," detailed the rapacious role these financial entities have played in driving local media's decline.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

The Final Word



Shared by Doug Pizac

Today in History - Dec. 15, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 15, the 350th day of 2020. There are 16 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 15, 2013, Nelson Mandela was laid to rest in his childhood hometown, ending a 10-day mourning period for South Africa's first Black president.

On this date:

In 1791, the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, went into effect following ratification by Virginia.

In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, South Dakota, during a confrontation with Indian police.

In 1944, the U.S. Senate approved the promotions of Henry H. Arnold, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur and George C. Marshall to the five-star rank of General of the Army and the nominations of William D. Leahy, Ernest J. King and Chester W. Nimitz as Admirals of the Fleet.

In 1965, two U.S. manned spacecraft, Gemini 6A and Gemini 7, maneuvered toward each other while in orbit, at one point coming as close as one foot.

In 1967, the Silver Bridge between Gallipolis (gal-ih-puh-LEES'), Ohio, and Point Pleasant, West Virginia, collapsed into the Ohio River, killing 46 people.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter announced he would grant diplomatic recognition to Communist China on New Year's Day and sever official relations with Taiwan.

In 1989, a popular uprising began in Romania that resulted in the downfall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHEHS'-koo).

In 2000, the long-troubled Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine was closed for good.

In 2001, with a crash and a large dust cloud, a 50-foot tall section of steel [–] the last standing piece of the World Trade Center's facade [–] was brought down in New York.

In 2009, evangelist Oral Roberts died in Newport Beach, California, at age 91.

In 2012, a day after the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, President Barack Obama declared that "every parent in America has a heart heavy with hurt" and said it was time to "take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this."

In 2016, a federal jury in Charleston, South Carolina, convicted Dylann Roof of slaughtering nine Black church members who had welcomed him to their Bible study.

Ten years ago: The U.N. Security Council gave a unanimous vote of confidence to the government of Iraq by lifting 19-year-old sanctions on weapons and civilian nuclear power. Time magazine named Mark Zuckerberg, the 26-year-old co-founder and CEO of Facebook, its Person of the Year. Movie producer, director and writer Blake Edwards, 88, died in Santa Monica, California. Baseball Hall of Famer Bob Feller died in Cleveland at age 92.

Five years ago: Sens. Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio clashed over U.S. military intervention, government spying on Americans' communications and immigration as front-runner Donald Trump defended his provocative call for banning Muslims from the United States during a Republican presidential debate held in Las Vegas. In a major policy change, Secretary of State John Kerry accepted Russia's longstanding demand that Syrian President Bashar Assad's future be determined by his own people.

One year ago: The Hallmark Channel said it would reinstate commercials for a wedding-planning website featuring same-sex couples; the network had pulled the ads following a complaint from a conservative group.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Cindy Birdsong (The Supremes) is 81. Rock musician Dave Clark (The Dave Clark Five) is 78. Rock musician Carmine Appice (Vanilla Fudge) is 74. Actor Don Johnson is 71. Actor Melanie Chartoff is 70. Movie director Julie Taymor is 68. Movie director Alex Cox is 66. Rock musician Paul Simonon (The Clash) is 65. Movie director John Lee Hancock is 64. Democratic Party activist Donna Brazile is 61. Country singer Doug Phelps (Brother Phelps; Kentucky Headhunters) is 60. Movie producer-director Reginald Hudlin is 59. Actor Helen Slater is 57. Actor Paul Kaye (TV: "Game of Thrones") is 56. Actor Molly Price is 55. Actor Garrett Wang (wahng) is 52. Actor Michael Shanks is 50. Actor Stuart Townsend is 48. Figure skater Surya Bonaly is 47. Actor Geoff Stults is 44. Actor Adam Brody is 41. Actor Michelle Dockery is 39. Actor George O. Gore II is 38. Actor Camilla Luddington is 37. Rock musician Alana Haim (HYM) is 29. Actor Maude Apatow (AP'-ih-tow) is 23. Actor Stefania Owen is 23.

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

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